Environmental considerations Vinter crops

Sow

Fodder beet can have both positive and negative impacts on the environment, and these need to be weighed carefully depending on your farm system. Research into environmental outcomes is still evolving.

Impacts

Positives

	i vegatives
Low crude protein (N) feed. Reduces urinary N excretion by animals. Lower nitrate leaching per ha than kale in grazing trials	Potential soil compaction under grazing due to higher stocking rates. Remedial cultivation may be required before sowing subsequent new pasture or crop.
Established crops do not need to be sprayed for white butterfly or diamond back moth (less insecticide).	Full cultivation required for best fodder beet establishment. Associated risks include loss of soil N and CO ² , topsoil disturbance, erosion and run off.
Catch-crops (e.g. oats, Italian/ annual ryegrass) sown immediately post grazing soak up excess soil N and mitigate leaching.	Poorly planned and managed winter grazing can cause of loss of sediment and nutrients to waterways.
High DM% bulbs can be lifted and stored, or left in the ground and lifted when required, for feeding on pads or in wintering barns. Feed quality remains high;	Generally more herbicide is required.

urine is captured away from soils.



Well-planned and managed, fodder beet provides high yields, ME and utilisation

Better pasture together™

